Further, under All India Coordinated Research Project on sugarcane, the participating centres of Tamil Nadu contributed in development of sugarcane varieties such as Co85004,Co94008, Co87025, Co87044, Co8371, Co91010 and 86249.

(d) The Tamil Nadu Government has fixed target of 3.0 lakh hectare under sugarcane for the year 2005-06 to achieve production target of 364.1 lakh MT.The Central Government regularly monitor the crop prospect and give advise to State Government for appropriate action as per need.

Advisory for cost-effective farm practices

495. SHRI BAHGWATI SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had issued an advisory to farmers to save available soil moisture and use cost-effective farm practices for the Kharif sowing season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to grant assistance to farmers for cost-effective farm equipments in the light of shortfall of rain; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are as under:

1. Adopt ridge & furrow method of sowing for better moisture utilization and to avoid water logging,
2. Adopt rain water harvesting through farm ponds and apply life saving irrigation in the event of long gap in rains,
3. Use mulching to reduce soil moisture loss, and
4. Adopt micro-irrigation system in dry land areas.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proposals from the State Governments to grant assistance to farmers for cost effective farm equipment are considered on the basis of their Work Plans under Macro Management Scheme.